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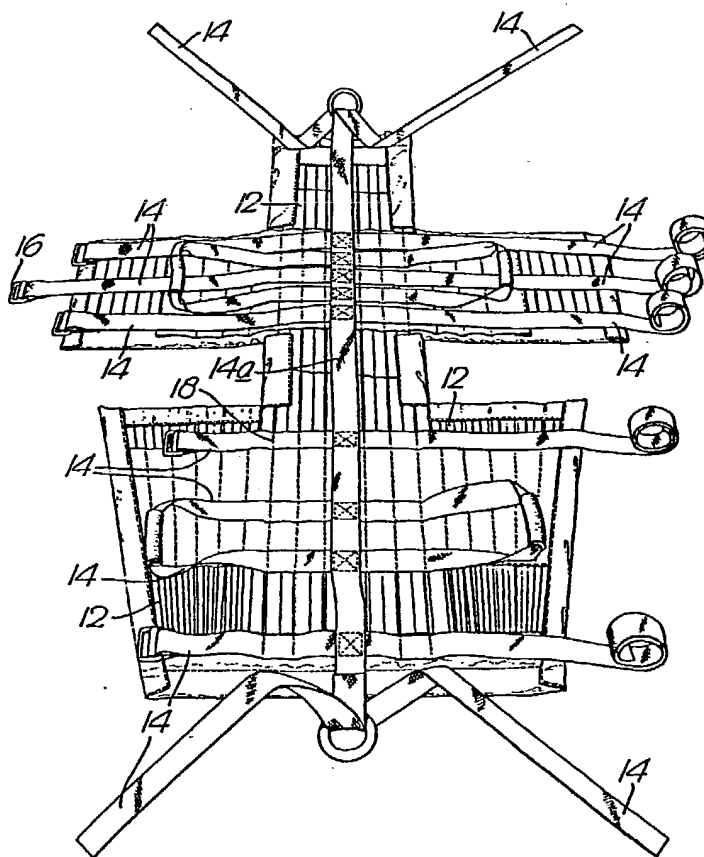
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GB 0600232

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A5X

## (54) Stretcher

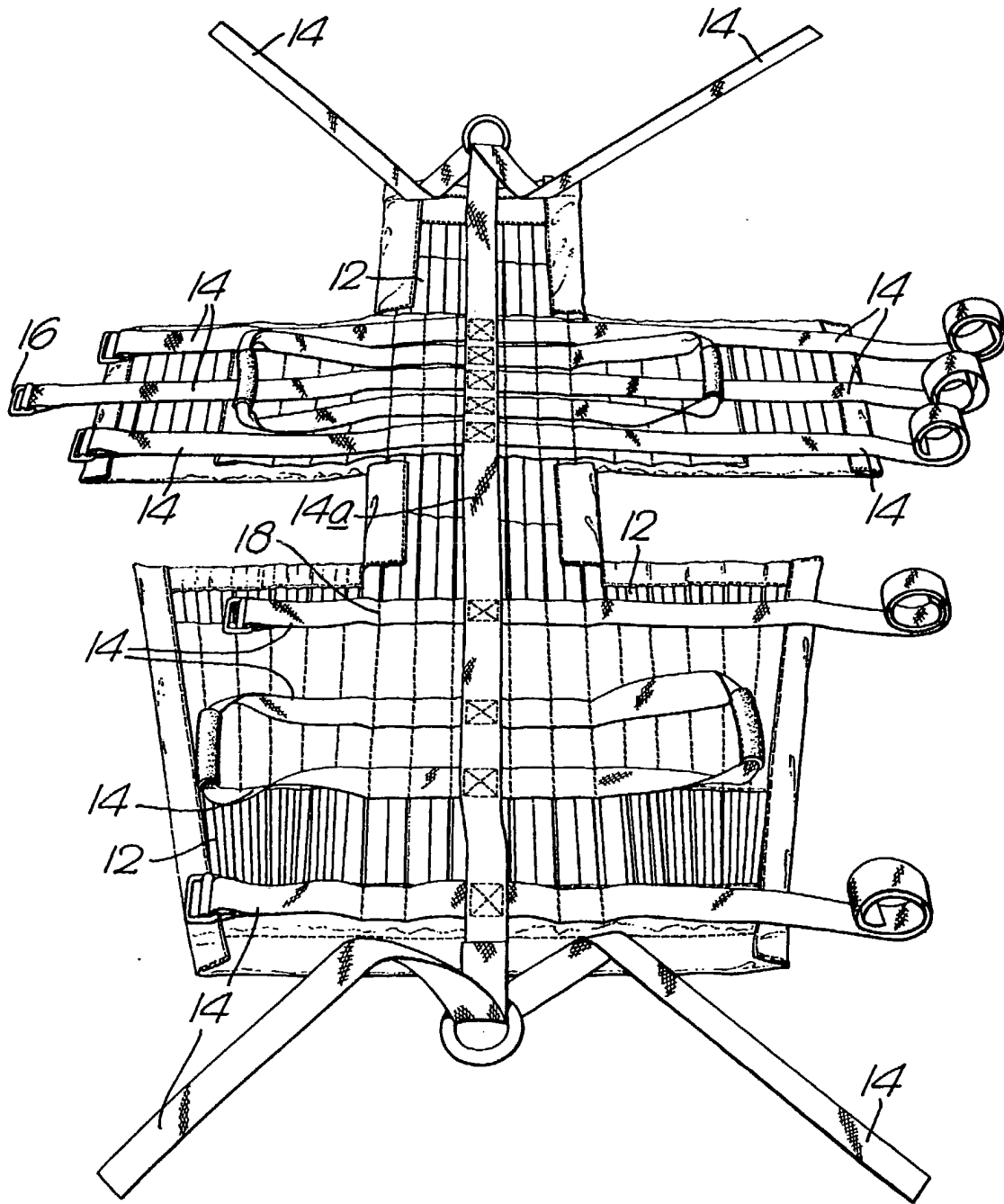
(57) Stretchers, especially Neil Robertson stretchers, comprise a main canvas body (10) stiffened by slats (12) so as to act as a splint for the whole body and straps (14) either sewn or otherwise attached to each other to form a unitary harness are provided on the stretcher to strap the canvas body (10) around the casualty. These straps may comprise a main strap (14a) extending the full length of the stretcher and secured by sewing or other means to the canvas. The other straps may extend across this main strap like ribs or arms and are securely sewn to the main strap where they cross it. The straps therefore form a unitary harness with the result that their length is independent of their attachment to the canvas.



The drawings originally filed were informal and the print here reproduced is taken from a later filed formal copy.  
The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1982.

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# **SPECIFICATION** **Stretcher**

This invention relates to stretchers. In particular, it relates to Neil Robertson stretchers.

5 Neil Robertson stretchers were originally designed for use on board ship, in mines or in confined spaces. The casualty is held firmly in any position within the strong canvas of the stretcher, the canvas being stiffened by wooden slats so as to  
10 act as a splint for the whole body. A ring at the head of the stretcher allows it to be suspended by a rope or cable, while another ring at the foot of the stretcher has a rope attached to it for steadying purposes. The size of the stretcher is such that the  
15 casualty with the slats positioned on all sides of the body.

In order that the canvas may be wrapped round the body and securely held in that position, it has  
20 been usual to sew numerous straps to the canvas, the ends of some straps being provided with buckles or similar fastening means. It is not an easy operation in the factory sewing these straps to the canvas body of the stretcher, especially as the latter  
25 is quite a bulky item for a sewing machine operator to handle. It is accordingly an aim of the present invention to simplify the provision of straps on the stretcher and, at the same time, to provide an arrangement wherein the strength of the straps is  
30 not dependent on their attachment to the canvas.

With this aim in view, the present invention is directed to a stretcher, especially a Neil Robertson stretcher, wherein each strap is sewn to another strap so that the straps, together, form a unitary  
35 harness.

An example of a stretcher in accordance with the invention is shown in the accompanying drawing, the stretcher being viewed in perspective view from above.

40 The illustrated stretcher is a Neil Robertson stretcher comprising a main canvas body 10, provided with wooden slats 12 and adapted to be wrapped round the body of a casualty so as to act as a body splint. In order to hold the canvas round the  
45 body in this fashion, the stretcher includes numerous straps 14, at least some of which are provided with buckles 16.

Hitherto, these straps have been sewn on to the main canvas body 10. This is an awkward operation

50 for a sewing machine operator in the factory and, moreover, the strength of each strap is dependent, to some extent, on the strength of the canvas body. This is avoided in the stretcher shown in the accompanying drawing by reason of the fact that  
55 each strap 14 is sewn on to another strap so that the straps, together, form a unitary harness.

In the particular form of stretcher shown in the drawing, there is a main strap 14a extending the full length of the stretcher and acting as a kind of  
60 backbone strap. All the other straps extend across this main strap rather like ribs or arms and are securely sewn to the main strap 14 where they cross it. Sewing of the straps together is therefore a much simpler operation, especially as the straps are much  
65 less bulky to handle than the main canvas body 10.

As will be seen, the straps are secured to the canvas body either by loops 18 in the latter or by sewing, whichever is more convenient. Even when  
70 sewing is used, the operation is now greatly simplified by the fact that it can be effected along straight lines lengthwise of the canvas body 10.

## **CLAIMS**

1. A stretcher made of canvas stiffened by slats so as to act as a splint for the whole body, the size of  
75 the stretcher being such that the canvas can be wrapped around the body of the casualty with the slats positioned on all sides of the body, in which straps on the stretcher serving to strap the canvas around the body of the casualty are sewn or  
80 otherwise attached to each other so that the straps, together, form a unitary harness.

2. A stretcher according to claim 1, in which the stretcher is a Neil Robertson stretcher.

3. A stretcher according to claim 1 or claim 2, in  
85 which the straps comprise a main strap extending lengthwise of the stretcher and firmly attached by sewing or other means to the canvas of the stretcher with other straps being attached to the main strap.

4. A stretcher according to claim 3, in which the  
90 said other straps extend transversely of the main strap like ribs or arms and are securely sewn to the main strap where they cross it.

5. A stretcher according to claim 3 or claim 4, in which said other straps are secured to the canvas by  
95 loops in the latter and/or by sewing.

6. A stretcher substantially as described herein with reference to the accompanying drawing.